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Texas leads the nation in supplying new residents to other states

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Texas supplied the most new residents of any U.S. state for nine other states, despite having the biggest population growth this decade, according to figures released this week by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Texas was the top source of new residents for Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico and Oklahoma, according to the 2024 state-to-state migration flows, which track where someone lived in the previous year and where they currently live.

With 31 million residents, Texas ranks second in population among U.S. states. Between 2020 and 2024, Texas gained 2.1 million people.

"The obvious and primary answer is size," said Dudley Poston, professor emeritus of sociology at Texas A&M University.

"There's got to be more people leaving Texas than leaving other states because of the population size of Texas."

Other large producers of residents who moved to other states included the nation's other most popu-



A sign at a UHaul store looking to hire employees is also offering a bonus, Thursday, May 20, 2021, in Boynton Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

lous states: California, Florida and New York.

California, the most populous U.S. state with 39 million residents, supplied the most new residents to the western states of Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Texas and Washington. But it also was the top supplier of domestic residents to Tennessee, home to Nashville, which has established a pipeline to Southern California's entertainment industry.

Florida, the third most populous U.S. state with 23 million

residents, dominated the number of new residents in the southeast states of Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina but also Ohio. Florida has gained 1.8 million residents this decade, the second most of any state.

Although the Sunshine State's size played a primary role, other factors may be involved too, such as Florida's escalating real estate and homeowners' insurance prices and the more plentiful job opportunities for recent college graduates in cities like Atlanta and Charlotte, ac-

cording to Richard Doty, a research demographer at the University of Florida.

"It is no longer as affordable a relocation/ retirement option as it once was," Doty said in an email. New York was the top source of new residents in Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts and New Jersey, while Illinois provided the most new residents for Midwestern neighbors Indiana, Iowa and Wisconsin.

"The states with the largest out-migration numbers

California, Florida, Texas, and New York are also the states with the largest populations. That's not a coincidence," said Helen You, interim director of the Texas Demographic Center. "Large populations naturally generate large volumes of both in-and-out migrants."

Some migration patterns were no real surprises, such as former Massachusetts residents being the biggest source of new Mainers, New Hampshire residents, Rhode Islanders and Vermonters. Former Wisconsin residents made up the largest number of new Minnesotans, and former North Carolinians were the biggest source of new South Carolina residents.

In most states in 2024, before the immigration crackdown of the second Trump administration, people arriving from a foreign country were the top source of new residents. Among the exceptions, where international migration wasn't large compared to people moving from individual U.S. states, were Idaho, Kansas, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. □

Rhode Island may ditch Mr. Potato Head license plates after Hasbro moves to Boston

By **KIMBERLEE KRUESI**

Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — It's been no small potatoes that Rhode Islanders have been able to choose the image of Mr. Potato Head as a specialty license plate for decades.

Yet with Hasbro's decision to move its headquarters from the smallest state in the U.S. to Boston, two lawmakers say it's time to hash out whether Rhode Island should continue promoting one of the company's most iconic characters.

Under the proposal introduced earlier this month, Rhode Island's Division of



This image provided by Rhode Island DMV shows the Rhode Island specialty license plate.

Associated Press

Motor Vehicles would stop providing Mr. Potato Head as an option for a specialty license plate. Currently the plate costs around \$40, with half of that amount going to help support the Rhode Island Commu-

nity Food Bank. Rep. Brian Newberry, a Republican from North Smithfield, said in an email that he filed the legislation because Hasbro leaving the state will cause "untold economic harm and loss of tax

revenue."

"There is no reason we should be advertising their products on our license plates," Newberry said. "It may seem trivial compared to many other things but it's a matter of self-respect."

Mr. Potato Head license plates were first issued in 2002 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the beloved toy, which notably has appeared in the "Toy Story" films. The plates include a small image of Mr. Potato Head holding a sign of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and "help end hunger" at the bottom of the plate.

"The license plate started at a time when Mr. Potato Head was all over the state and was having a moment," said Kate MacDonald, spokesperson for the food bank, which has received nearly \$60,000 over the years due to the plate. "And while it has tapered off over the years, it's been a steady way for people to contribute."

An email was sent to Hasbro seeking comment. The toy company announced last year that it would be moving to Boston by the end of 2026 after operating in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, for nearly 70 years. □

Auction marking the United States' 250th birthday features some of its most iconic documents

By JOSEPH FREDERICK
Associated Press

As the United States prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday, an auction in New York will feature rare items that trace the nation's history.

The event Friday at Christie's, dubbed "We the People: America at 250," will bring together foundational political texts, iconic American art and rare historical artifacts.

Among the highlights is a rare 1776 broadside printing of the Declaration of Independence produced in New Hampshire by printer Robert Luist Fowle, estimated at \$3 million to \$5 million. "It's historically significant because you get to see what people at the time actually saw," said Peter Klarnet, senior specialist for books, manuscripts and Americana at Christie's. While the initial printing was produced by John Dunlap on the night of July 4, 1776 with about 200 copies printed and only 26 known to survive other printers quickly began producing their own versions.



A copy of the Declaration of Independence, printed by Robert Luist Fowle in July 1776, sits on display at Christie's during a preview for the "We the People: America at 250" auction, Jan. 15, 2026 in New York.

Associated Press

"This is the way that everyday Americans would have encountered the Declaration of Independence whether it was tacked to a wall or read from the pulpit of their local congregation," Klarnet said.

Another founding document up for sale is Rufus

King's edited draft of the U.S. Constitution, estimated at \$3 million to \$5 million. Printed just five days before the final version was issued on Sept. 17, 1787, the document captures the nation's founding charter as it was being finalized.

"This is the Constitution taking final form," Klarnet said. "You can see the edits be-

ing made in real time."

King was a delegate from Massachusetts to the 1787 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. He was also a member of The Committee of Style, a five-member group tasked with refining the text.

"This puts you directly in Independence Hall as they're drafting and mak-

ing the final changes and edits to this remarkable document," Klarnet said.

The auction also includes a signed copy of the Emancipation Proclamation. The authorized printed edition was commissioned for the Great Central Fair, a Civil War-era fundraiser held in Philadelphia in June 1864 to raise money for Union troops.

The Proclamation is estimated at \$3 million to \$5 million.

"Lincoln, together with his Secretary of State William Seward and his Secretary John Nicolay, signed 48 copies of this," Klarnet said, noting they were originally sold for \$20 each and not all sold at the time.

American art plays a major role in the sale as well. Leading the category is Gilbert Stuart's portrait of George Washington thought to have inspired the face on the U.S. dollar bill. The painting was commissioned by James Madison. It is estimated to bring between \$500,000 and \$1 million. □

NASA and families of fallen astronauts mark 40th anniversary of space shuttle Challenger accident

By MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.
(AP) — Families of the astronauts lost in the space

shuttle Challenger accident gathered back at the launch site Thursday to mark that tragic day 40 years ago.



Jane Smith-Wolcott, center, widow of Challenger pilot Michael Smith and daughter Alison Smith Balch put flowers on a memorial during NASA's Day of Remembrance for the 40th Anniversary of the Challenger tragedy at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026.

Associated Press

All seven on board were killed when Challenger broke apart following liftoff on Jan. 28, 1986.

At the Kennedy Space Center memorial ceremony, Challenger pilot Michael Smith's daughter, Alison Smith Balch, said through tears that her life forever changed that frigid morning, as did many other lives.

"In that sense," she told the hundreds of mourners, "we are all part of this story."

"Every day I miss Mike," added his widow, Jane Smith-Holcott, "every day's the same."

The bitter cold weakened the O-ring seals in Challenger's right solid rocket booster, causing the shut-

tle to rupture 73 seconds after liftoff. A dysfunctional culture at NASA contributed to that disaster and, 17 years later, shuttle Columbia's.

Kennedy Space Center's deputy director Kelvin Manning said those humble and painful lessons require constant vigilance "now more than ever" with rockets soaring almost every day and the next astronaut moonshot just weeks away.

Challenger's crew included schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe, who was selected from more than 100 teachers representing every state. Two of her fellow teacher-in-space contenders both retired now attended the memorial.

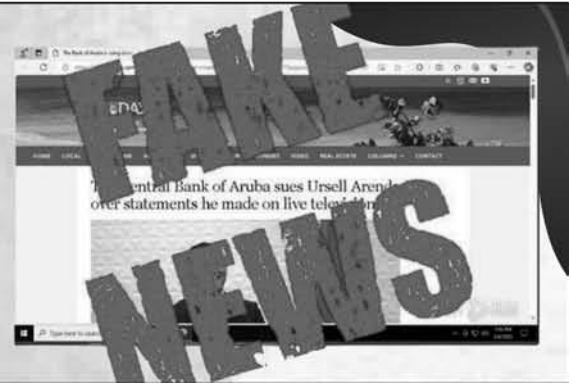
"We were so close together," said Bob Veilleux, a retired astronomy high school teacher from New Hampshire, McAuliffe's home state.

Bob Foerster, a sixth-grade math and science teacher from Indiana, who was among the 10 finalists, said he's grateful that space education blossomed after the accident and that it didn't just leave Challenger's final crew as "martyrs." "It was a hard reality," Foerster noted at the Space Mirror Memorial at Kennedy's visitor complex. Twenty-five names are carved into the black mirror-finished granite: the Challenger seven, the seven who perished in the Columbia disaster on Feb. □

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Homicide rate declines sharply in dozens of U.S. cities, a new report shows

By **CLAUDIA LAUER**
Associated Press

Data collected from 35 American cities showed a 21% decrease in the homicide rate from 2024 to 2025, translating to about 922 fewer homicides last year, according to a new report from the independent Council on Criminal Justice. The report, released on Thursday, tracked 13 crimes and recorded drops last year in 11 of those categories including carjackings, shoplifting, aggravated assaults and others. Drug crimes saw a small increase over last year and sexual assaults stayed even between 2024 and 2025, the study found.

Experts said cities and states beyond those surveyed showed similar declines in homicides and other crimes. But they said it's too early to tell what is prompting the change even as elected officials at all levels both Democrats and Republicans have been claiming credit.



The west facade of the Supreme Court Building bears the motto "Equal Justice Under Law" on March 20, 2019, in Washington.

Adam Gelb, president and CEO of the council a nonpartisan think tank for criminal justice policy and research said that after historic increases in violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, this year brought historic decreases. The study found some cit-

ies recorded decades-low numbers, with the overall homicide rate dropping to its lowest in decades.

"It's a dramatic drop to an absolutely astonishing level. As we celebrate it we also need to unpack and try to understand it," Gelb said. "There's never one reason

crime goes up or down."

The council collects data from police departments and other law enforcement sources. Some of the report categories included data from as many as 35 cities, while others because of differences in definitions for specific crimes or tracking gaps, include fewer

cities in their totals. Many of the property crimes in the report also declined, including a 27% drop in vehicle thefts and 10% drop in shoplifting among the reporting cities.

The council's report showed a decrease in the homicide rate in 31 of 35 cities including a 40% decrease or more in Denver, Omaha, Nebraska, and Washington. The only city included that reported a double-digit increase was Little Rock, Arkansas, where the rate increased by 16% from 2024.

Gelb said the broad crime rate decreases have made some criminologists question historic understandings of what drives trends in violent crime and how to battle it.

"We want to believe that local factors really matter for crime numbers, that it is fundamentally a neighborhood problem with neighborhood level solutions," he said. □

Associated Press

Bruce Lee play and Vocal Arts DC join growing list of Kennedy Center cancellations



The John F. Kennedy Center Memorial Center for the Performance Arts illuminated as part of the "Nordic Cool 2013: Northern Lights" exhibit, in Washington, Feb. 28, 2013.

Associated Press

By **HILLEL ITALIE**
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The producers of a stage play inspired by the life of Bruce Lee and the musical presenters Vocal Arts DC are the latest members of the arts community to call off shows at the Kennedy Center.

Lin-Manuel Miranda, Issa Rae, Bela Fleck are among the numerous artists who have withdrawn in protest of President Donald Trump's ousting of the leadership at the center and at the announcement last month by his hand-picked board that the Kennedy Center had been renamed the Trump-Kennedy Center, a change scholars say can only be implemented by Congress. Trump has placed the Ken-

nedy Center, a Washington institution that for decades enjoyed bipartisan support, at the heart of his battle against what he calls "woke" culture.

Neither of the most recent announcements directly criticized Trump.

The Seattle Children's Theatre had been scheduled to oversee "Young Dragon: A Bruce Lee Story" for a two-week run in April.

The theater announced this week on Instagram that it had made the "difficult decision" to cancel after "deep listening and extensive dialogue with the artists, community partners, and the Bruce Lee family and foundation." □

Historic love letters from royals, rogues and romantics go on show at Britain's National Archives

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Love is, famously, a many-splendored thing. It can encompass longing, loneliness, pain, jealousy, grief and, sometimes, joy.

As Valentine's Day approaches, the many facets of passion are going on display in "Love Letters," a public exhibition at Britain's National Archives that covers five centuries.

Curator Victoria Iglikowski-Broad said that the documents recount "legendary romances from British history" involving royalty, politicians, celebrities and spies, "alongside voices of everyday people."

"We're trying to open up the potential of what a love letter can be," she told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "Expressions of love can be found in all sorts of places, and surprising places."

They also take many forms. The exhibition ranges from early 20th-century classified ads seeking same-sex romance to sweethearts' letters to soldiers at war and a medieval song about heartbreak.

There's also "one of our most iconic documents," Iglikowski-Broad said, referring to a poignant letter to Queen Elizabeth I from her suitor Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. Written days be-



A general view of part of the Love Letters exhibition at the National Archives, with pictures of the writer Oscar Wilde and Lord Alfred Douglas, in London, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026.

Associated Press

fore Dudley's death in 1588, it conveys the intimacy between the "Virgin Queen," who never married, and the man who called himself "your poor old servant." The missive, with "his last letter" written on the outside spelling at the time was idiosyncratic, was found at the queen's bedside when she died almost 15 years later.

Bonds of family and friendship

Love, in the exhibition, doesn't just mean romance. Family bonds are in evidence in Jane Austen's

handwritten will from 1817 leaving almost everything to her beloved sister Cassandra, and in a 1956 letter in which the father of London gangster twins Reggie and Ronnie Kray, implores a court to go easy on the brothers, because "all their concern in life is to do good to everybody."

The letter writers range from paupers to princes. In an 1851 petition, an unemployed 71-year-old weaver named Daniel Rush begs authorities not to separate him and his wife by sending them to workhouses. It's displayed alongside the

Instrument of Abdication through which King Edward VIII gave up the throne in 1936 so that he could marry "the woman I love," twice-divorced American Wallis Simpson.

"There is a lot of connection in these two items even though on the surface they seem very different," Iglikowski-Broad said. "In common they have just this human feeling of love ... that the sacrifice is actually worth it for love."

Other documents tell of love lost. There is a never-before-displayed 1944 let-

ter from young British intelligence officer John Cairncross to his former girlfriend Gloria Barraclough, reflecting on what might have been. "Would we have broken off, I wondered, if we had known what was coming?"

Some readers may think Barraclough had a lucky escape years later, Cairncross was unmasked as a Soviet spy.

Royal romance and tragedy

Some love stories tell of danger, heartbreak and tragedy. In one, Lord Alfred Douglas asks in vain for Queen Victoria to pardon his lover Oscar Wilde. The writer had been sentenced to two years in prison for gross indecency after Douglas' outraged father revealed their relationship. Nearby is a letter written in 1541 by Catherine Howard, fifth wife of King Henry VIII, to her secret beau Thomas Culpeper.

Archives historian Neil Johnston noted that the tone of the extraordinary letter is "restrained panic. She is warning him to be very, very careful." Catherine signed off the letter "yours as long as life endures." That turned out not to be long. The king discovered the affair and both Catherine and Culpeper were executed for treason. □

Rwanda to test AI-powered technology in clinics under a new Gates Foundation project

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — Rwanda will test technology powered by artificial intelligence in more than 50 health clinics as part of a new initiative by the Gates Foundation to support 1,000 clinics across Africa with the aim to improve health care services. The technology is intended to strengthen rather than replace clinical judgment, while improving efficiency within an already stretched health system, Andrew Muhire, a senior official with Rwanda's Ministry of Health, told The Associated Press on Thursday. Rwanda now has one health care worker for 1,000 patients far from the globally recommended ratio of 4:1,000.

The Gates Foundation and OpenAI on Wednesday launched a new initiative

dubbed Horizons1000, with joint funding of \$50 million over two years. Bill Gates said the initiative will help close the health inequality gap.

"In poorer countries with enormous health worker shortages and a lack of health systems infrastructure, AI can be a game changer in expanding access to quality care," Gates said in a blog post on the launch.

Muhire described it as a "transformative opportunity" that will improve citizens' access to health care, "reduce administrative burden" and help medical professionals make "more accurate and timely decisions." □



The Gates Foundation campus sign is seen on April 30, 2025, in Seattle.

Associated Press

Elizabeth Hurley describes 'monstrous' privacy invasion by Daily Mail in British media hacking case

By **BRIAN MELLEY**
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Elizabeth Hurley accused the publisher of the Daily Mail on Thursday of tapping her phones, putting microphones outside her windows and stealing her medical records among "other monstrous, staggering things" during testimony in a celebrity-studded privacy invasion lawsuit.

"The best way I can describe it is like there is someone peeping into your life and into your home," the model and actor said. It "makes me feel as if my private life had been violated by violent intruders that there had been sinister thieves in my home all along and that I had been living with them completely unaware."

Hurley was the second witness to testify in the lawsuit that includes co-claimants Prince Harry and Elton John, and four others who allege that Associated Newspapers Ltd. hired private investigators to unlawfully snoop on them over



Elizabeth Hurley, right, leaves the Royal Courts of Justice on day four of the trial over allegations of unlawful information gathering brought against Associated Newspapers Limited, Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026, in London.

two decades.

Harry showed up to show his support for Hurley's testimony the day after he choked up in the witness box as he spoke of the emotional toll his battle against the British media had taken on him

and his family.

The publisher denies the claims and has called them preposterous. It said that the articles were reported on with legitimate sources and many will be named

Associated Press
by employees at the Daily Mail and Mail on Sunday in the company's defense during the nine-week trial in London's High Court. Hurley, who like the prince brought similar phone hacking lawsuits against

the publishers of the Daily Mirror and The Sun, said that she was unaware of similar allegations against the Mail until she was told in 2020 that Gavin Burrows, a former private eye, purportedly said that he had stolen her information at the behest of the newspapers.

Burrows has since disavowed that sworn statement and said he never worked for the Mail. Hurley claims 15 articles about her between 2002 and 2011 relied on unlawful information-gathering. Several were about the 2002 birth of her son, Damian, and the paternity fight with his father, the late film producer Steve Bing.

"The Mail's unlawful acts against me involve landline tapping my phones and recording my live telephone conversations, placing surreptitious mics on my home windows, stealing my medical information when I was pregnant with Damian, and other monstrous, staggering things," Hurley said. □

Interpol-backed police make nearly 200 arrests in Amazon region gold mining sweep

By **STEVEN GRATTAN**
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Police and prosecutors from Brazil, French Guiana, Guyana and Suriname have arrested nearly 200 people in their first-ever joint cross-border operation targeting illegal gold mining in the Amazon region, authorities said Thursday. The operation was backed by Interpol the international police cooperation agency that helps law enforcement agencies in different countries share information and coordinate investigations as well as the European Union and Dutch police specializing in environmental crime. Carried out in December, it involved more than 24,500 checks on vehicles and people across remote border areas and led to

the seizure of cash, unprocessed gold, mercury, firearms, drugs and mining equipment, Interpol said.

Among those arrested were three men detained in Guyana on suspicion of gold smuggling and

money laundering after officers seized unprocessed gold and about \$590,000 in cash. Investigators said the suspects are believed to be part of an organized crime group and may have links to a major gold exporting company in Guyana.



This image provided by Interpol shows an illegal gold mining site on Dec. 18, 2025, in the Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo region of Guyana.

Associated Press

Illegal gold mining has become a major driver of deforestation and river pollution in the Amazon, contaminating waterways with toxic mercury and damaging lands relied on by Indigenous communities. In recent years, the activity has expanded rapidly as global gold prices climbed to near-record highs, pushing miners deeper into remote forest regions and turning gold into one of the most profitable commodities for organized crime operating across borders.

"Illegal gold mining is growing rapidly and causing serious harm to the environment and local communities, especially in remote and fragile areas," Interpol Secretary General Valdecy Urquiza said in a statement. Authorities also seized cylin-

ders of mercury worth more than \$60,000 in Guyana and Suriname. Mercury is commonly used in illegal gold mining to separate gold from other materials, but it is highly toxic and can contaminate rivers, wildlife and people. Interpol said the mercury had been hidden inside solar panels and transported by bus.

Police in South America carried out coordinated checks along shared borders, including inspections on both sides of rivers that separate the countries. Officers searched vehicles, boats and small riverside shops that sell fuel, tools and other supplies commonly used in illegal mining. Some of the shops are suspected of helping smuggle gold and mercury across borders. □

Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the same, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the sub existence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations



were mostly experiences by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially

compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piterella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and

become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness in the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/Dera Gay (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. □

Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



Bingo At Seven on Monday, January 26, 2026, at The Casino at St. Regis Aruba



ORANJESTAD - This Monday, January 26, 2026, \$2500 in cash prizes and a Progressive Jackpot starting at \$25,000. Bingo cards are \$12 each, buy 2 and get the 3rd one for just \$4.

\$2500 in cash prizes:

- 1 \$100 - 5 \$250
- 2 \$100 - 6 \$250
- 3 \$150 - 7 \$500
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Purchase your cards early at our Pre-sale on Sunday, January 25, 2026, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

Are you asking for Bingo night?

Join us this Monday, January 26, 2026, from 7 pm – 9 pm at The Casino at St. Regis Aruba and shout Bingo...

For more information, visit our casino "VIP Desk" or call us at tel: 2812374.

We are waiting for you!

Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use



(Oranjestad)— Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes.□

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris

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How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches. How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started

to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this—one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef

is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

Why is the north deep, but the south shallow?



Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradu-

ally deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom. □

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).

Cas di Torto

Cas di torto (also called cas di lodo or cas di bara) is a traditional building technique from Aruba. It refers to a type of houses made of mud with rounded corners. These houses were usually found around the planta-

tions. The few structures that still exist are the oldest structures that are left standing in the country.

The technique probably came over from the Venezuelan Paraguaná Peninsula

in the 18th century. Existing houses date back 150 years. Until 1925 many houses on Aruba were built using this technique, afterwards it fell into disuse. In 2005 there were 62 cas di torto houses left, of which only four were in good condition.

The skeleton of the houses is made up of round wooden poles placed with distances of 1.5 feet between them. Branches are interwoven between them, completing the structural support. On this basis, loam is applied, mixed with sand, water and paragrass. This is then coated with aloe vera juice, which gives the white color and helps to protect against the weather.

On top of the poles pieces of wood are fitted that serve as the base for the roof beams.



Until 1815 the roofing usually consisted of corn (maize) stems, afterwards the nuclei of columnar cacti were used. The floor is made of loam, mixed with cement or cow dung.

The houses were usually divided into a kitchen, a living room, a porch and a bedroom. In the kitchen would be a wooden or metal bar-

rel for storing water that was collected in small rain ponds. Around this barrel a thick loam wall would be erected. Often large families would live in these houses; people would sleep on mats on the floor.

If you visit the Arikok National Park you will be able to see a very nice cas di torto. □





The 'Lisinbein' (Scolopendra gigantea), also known as the Giant Centipede, is one of the largest centipedes in the world and is found in Aruba. Its size and hunting prowess make it a fascinating, if often misunderstood, creature.

Despite its fearsome reputation, it plays a crucial ecological role that often goes unnoticed.

As an apex invertebrate predator, Scolopendra gigantea helps maintain

Fun facts about the 'Lisinbein'

balance in the ecosystem. Moreover, they themselves are a food source for birds such as the Crested Caracara (Warawara) and the Aruba burrowing owl (Shoco).

It controls populations of smaller invertebrates and even small vertebrates, ensuring that no species overpopulates, which could disrupt local biodiversity.

Its presence can indicate a healthy, functioning ecosystem. Its sensitivity to environmental changes makes it a bioindicator of ecological balance.

It can reach an impressive length of up to 30 centimeters (approx. 12 inches) and live for around 5 to 10 years in the wild. Its size and longevity makes it a significant and long-term part of the

ecosystem.

A mother's love

In Scolopendra species, the 'mother' typically exhibits maternal care by curling around her eggs and newly hatched young. She stays coiled around the clutch, protecting it from predators and fungi, which are serious risks in the moist environments these centipedes often inhabit. The mother maintains a clean environment for the eggs by carefully grooming them, which helps prevent fungal growth that could endanger the brood. This behavior may continue until the young centipedes have undergone their first molt, making them more capable of independent survival.

This form of parental care is beneficial in increasing the

survival rates of offspring, as the mother's protection provides a safe 'environment' during their vulnerable developmental stages. It's a fascinating adaptation because it shows a form of care that resembles more complex behaviors observed in vertebrates.

No bark, but all bite!

The lisinbein is known locally for having a really painful sting. While venomous, the Lisinbein is generally not aggressive toward humans unless provoked. Its role as a guardian of balance in the ecosystem helps protect the natural beauty of Aruba by keeping the ecosystem in harmony.

Editor's note: Information and pictures provided by Ms. Natasha Silva from the Aruba Conservation Foundation. □

Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names; Ayo & Alto Vista



(Oranjestad)—Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

Ayo

Ajo, or Ayo, is a word with

Arawak-Indian origin. A (or Ha) is an Indo-Antillean generalizing word. If you were to change a part of the word "Ayo", namely 'Yo', to 'Yu' and make 'Ayu', it would mean

"white."

However, as we now know, the name of the neighborhood is 'Ayo'. The word 'Yo' stands for Yocahu, which is another word for 'creator'



in Arawak/Taino and in the Papiamentu spoken today, 'Ayo' means 'bye'.

At Ayo, you can find some of the most well known rock formations. These formations became a well loved and visited attraction at Aruba that is held in high regards by both tourists and locals alike.

If you'd like to know more about the rock formations at Ayo, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all about its location and history.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; A.

Alto Vista

This word combination can be roughly translated to a

'high point of view' and the neighborhood received this name from the Hill.

In the surrounding areas, Domingo Antonia Silvestre built his by his own means the very first chapel or church of Aruba. The walls of this church were made with rocks but the roof was made of dry corn stalks. The church was inaugurated by father Pablo Algemesi.

If you'd like to know more about the Alto Vista Church's beautiful history, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all you need to know about it for when you visit it.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; AV. □



Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to find the anchor?

The anchor is a "must see" landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when you're visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean Sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the "T" junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the anchor

Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the "fluke" or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the anchor come from?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

"According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles

and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain."

Story 2:

"Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them."

How did the anchor become a landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr., local businessman. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas

area to draw tourism to the area.

The "anchor", which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated "To All Seamen" on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr. died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete

pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated "To All Seamen" in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The best time to visit

When you're planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. ☐



CROSSWORD

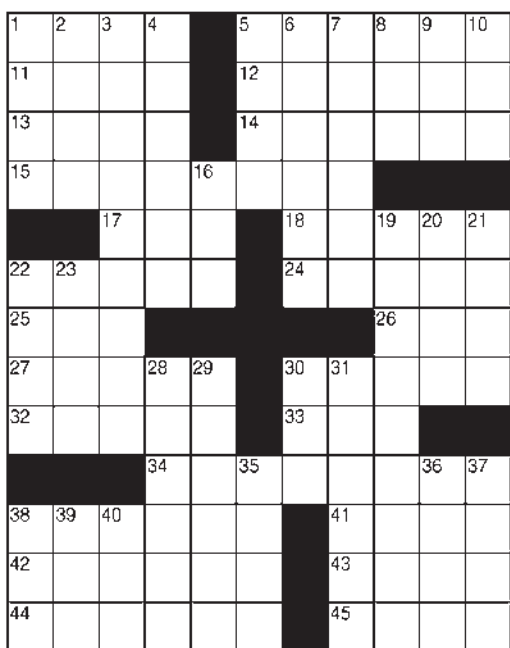
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Gone under
5 Ax wielders
11 Huron neighbor
12 Twist of fiction
13 Sneaker part
14 Central American nation
15 Waving in the breeze
17 Old roadster
18 Number unit
22 Tangle
24 Clue room
25 Summer mo.
26 Swiss peak
27 Turns about
30 San —, California
32 Shop tool
33 Day before
34 Gum flavor
38 Central American nation
41 Unexciting
42 Makes amends
43 Guinness of film

DOWN

- 44 Correct an online comment
45 Army level
1 Egotist's focus
2 River of Russia
3 Central American nation
4 Quarter-back play
5 Pueblo people
6 African grazers
7 Improvise
8 Longoria of TV
9 Sleep state
10 Mrs., in Madrid
16 Campaign pro
19 Central American nation
20 Not busy
21 Keyboard goof
22 Shocked sound
23 Empty
28 Los Angeles suburb
29 Grabs
30 Gents
31 Film set on Pandora
35 Forest home
36 Sign
37 Bottle part
38 Butter unit
39 Summer, in Paris
40 Cut off



2-2

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-2

CRYPTOQUOTE

B Z B JSQ OWOP BDTEO IZMV

MVO BOWZC ZT MVO KDCO

XSSTCZHVM? — "FDMXDT"

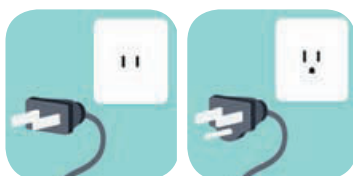
Cryptoquote: MY NAME IS INIGO MONTROYA. YOU KILLED MY FATHER. PREPARE TO DIE. — "THE PRINCESS BRIDE"

Cruise ship Schedule: Jan. 24 - 28 2026

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SAT	24	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2	08.00	20.00	B	1
		EVIRIMA	08.00	21.00	C	1
SUN	25	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
MON	26	BRITANNIA	08.00	16.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL SPIRIT	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	27	SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
WED	28	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	08.00	23.00	B	1
		NORWEGIAN SKY	11.00	20.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★★★★

1/23

Answer to previous puzzle

1	9	2	4	3	7	8	6	5
7	3	5	8	6	2	4	9	1
4	8	6	1	9	5	2	3	7
9	6	8	3	5	1	7	2	4
3	2	1	7	4	8	9	5	6
5	4	7	9	2	6	1	8	3
8	7	9	5	1	3	6	4	2
6	5	4	2	7	9	3	1	8
2	1	3	6	8	4	5	7	9

Difficulty: ★★★

1/22

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Take these steps to protect yourself from winter weather dangers

By **JUAN A. LOZANO** and
PATRICK WHITTLE
Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Winter weather brings various hazards that people have to contend with to keep warm and safe.

These dangers can include carbon monoxide poisoning, hypothermia and frozen pipes that can burst and make homes unlivable. Public safety officials and experts say there are multiple ways people can prepare themselves to avoid these winter weather hazards and keep themselves safe.

The hazards are on the radar this week because millions of people in the United States are set to be hit with heavy snow, sleet and freezing rain from a "significant winter storm" this weekend that will impact the Midwest, the East Coast as well as much of the southern U.S., including Texas, Georgia and the Carolinas, according to the National Weather Service.

Staying safe inside your home

Officials say that during a winter storm, people should stay indoors. But home heating systems running for hours can increase the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning as the deadly fumes can be produced by furnaces, stoves and heaters, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Carbon monoxide can also be created when people use portable generators or run cars in their garages to stay warm or charge their phones.

Dr. Alex Harding, assistant professor of emergency medicine at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, said that because carbon monoxide is odorless and colorless, people won't necessarily be aware of it. "The symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning can be really insidious. They can sneak up on patients and can range from just developing a headache or maybe a little bit of nausea to



A plow clears snow from a snow-covered sidewalk during a cold day in Lake Forest, Ill., Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026.

Associated Press

all the way to losing consciousness and seizures," he said.

Dealing with hypothermia

The cold weather hitting the U.S. this weekend has the ability to be dangerous or deadly because of unsafe exposure to elements. The cold temperatures could sneak up on people in parts of the country, including Texas, that have largely experienced a mild winter so far.

"Really cold temperatures and winds can make temperatures feel a lot colder, and the result of that could be cold air that could eventually lead to frostbite at a much faster rate or hypothermia at a much faster rate than normal," said Jon Palmer, a meteorologist with the National Weather

Service in Gray, Maine. Prolonged exposure to frigid temperatures can put people at risk to hypothermia, a condition that happens when one's body loses heat faster than it can produce it.

"Hypothermia is definitely one of the bigger concerns, especially if we do have any kind of certainty in like power grids or electricity failing," Harding said. The danger of hypothermia is greater for someone who is outside, exposed to wind gusts and isn't wearing appropriate clothing or has clothing that gets wet. "If they have a safe place that's warm, where they can hunker down, where they have water and food and all those kind of necessities ... then that's going to limit their exposure to those

risks," Harding said. But vulnerable populations like people with disabilities or homeless individuals can have problems finding a warm and safe place to stay.

Protecting your home's pipes

Frozen pipes in a home during severe winter weather is a particular problem in parts of the South because such equipment is often located outside structures. But other parts of the country also have to deal with this problem.

Jose Parra, a master plumber with Abacus Plumbing, Air Conditioning & Electrical in Houston, advises people to insulate any pipes that are exposed to the outside, turn off and drain sprinkler systems and let faucets inside a home drip during freezing temperatures so water can run through the pipes and protect them. □



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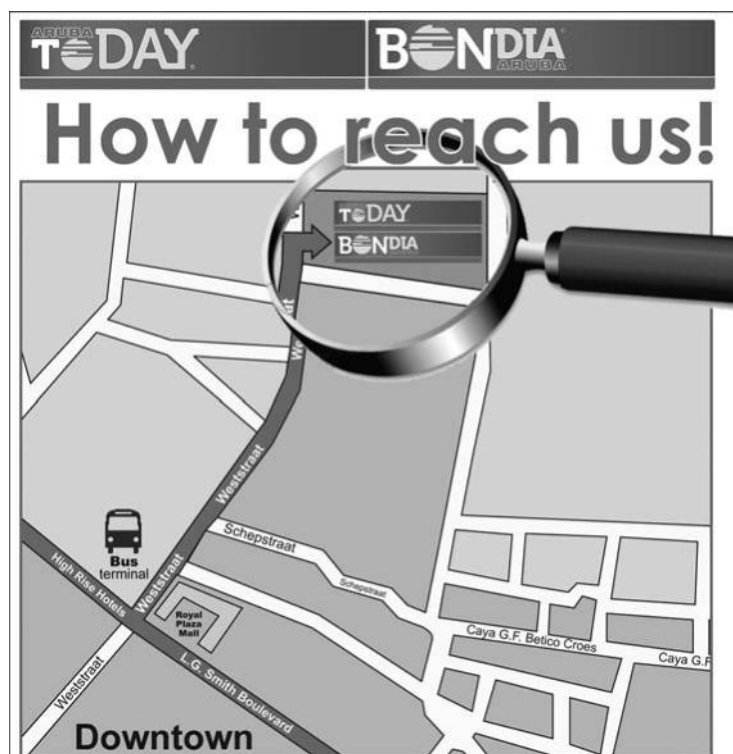
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Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
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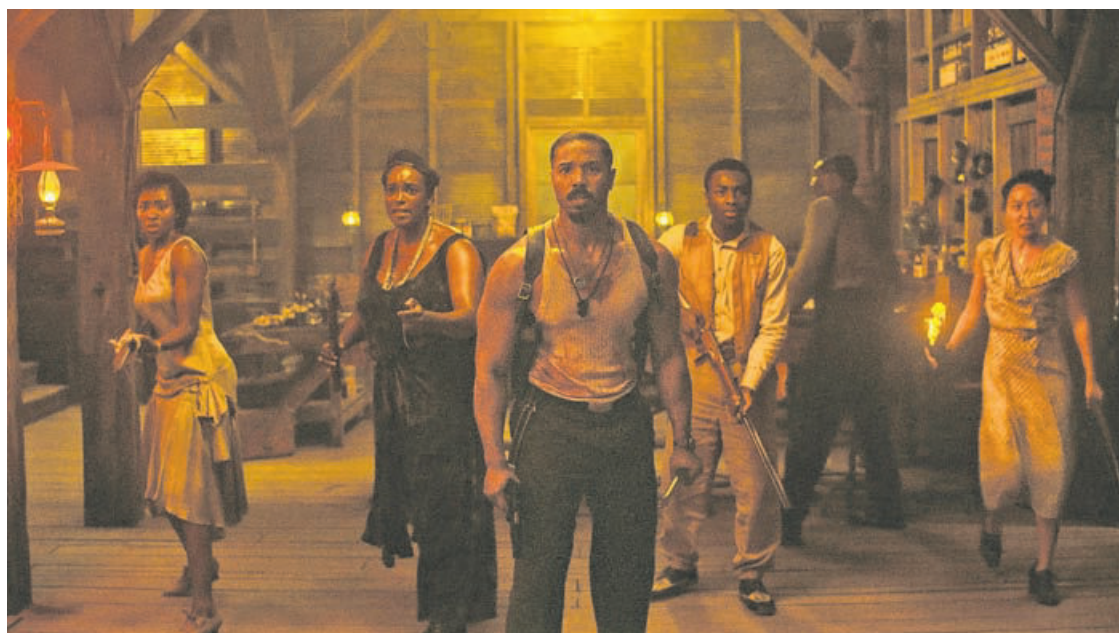
ARUBA TODAY NEWS

'Sinners' makes history, setting Oscars nomination record

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP Film Writer

Ryan Coogler's blues-steeped vampire epic "Sinners" led all films with 16 nominations to the 98th Academy Awards on Thursday, setting a record for the most in Oscar history. Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences voters showered "Sinners" with more nominations than they had ever bestowed before, breaking the 14-nomination mark set by "All About Eve," "Titanic" and "La La Land." Along with best picture, Coogler was nominated for best director and best screenplay, and double-duty star Michael B. Jordan was rewarded with his first Oscar nomination, for best actor. Paul Thomas Anderson's father-daughter revolutionary saga "One Battle After Another," the favorite coming into nominations, trailed in second with 13 of its own. Four of its actors Leonardo DiCaprio, Teyana Taylor, Benicio del Toro and Sean Penn were nominated, though newcomer Chase Infiniti was left out in best actress.

In those two top nominees, the film academy put its full force behind a pair of visceral and bracingly original American epics that each connected with a fraught national moment. Coogler's Jim Crow-era film the rare horror movie to win the academy's favor conjures a mythical allegory of Black life. In "One Battle After Another," a dormant spirit of rebellion is revived in an out-of-control police state. Both are also Warner Bros. titles. In the midst of a contentious sale to Netflix, the 102-year-old studio had its best Oscar nominations mornings ever, with 33 total nods. In a memo to Warner Bros. Discovery employees, David Zaslav, chief executive, called it "a golden moment for our company." As the fate of Warner Bros., which Netflix is buying for \$72 billion, hangs in the balance amid a challenge from Paramount Skydance, Hollywood is bracing for potentially the largest re-



This image released by Warner Bros Pictures shows Michael B. Jordan, center, in a scene from "Sinners."

alignment in the film industry's history.

A coronation for Coogler

For Coogler, the 39-year-old filmmaker of "Fruitvale Station" and "Black Panther," it was a crowning moment. One of Hollywood's most esteemed yet humble filmmakers, Coogler has called "Sinners" a film that he will own outright 25 years after its release his most personal movie.

"I wrote this script for my uncle who passed away 11 years ago," Coogler said in an interview Thursday morning. "I got to imagine that he's listening to some blues music right now to celebrate."

Reached by phone an hour after the nominations were read, Coogler speaking alongside his wife and producer Zinzi Coogler and producer Sev Ohanian was still trying to process the movie's record-breaking haul.

"I love making movies. I'm honored to wake up every day and do it. I was writing last night. That's why I didn't get too much sleep," said Coogler, chuckling. "Honestly, bro, I still feel a little bit asleep right now."

The other top nominees

The 10 films nominated for best picture are "Bugonia," "F1," "Frankenstein," "Hamnet," "Marty Supreme," "One Battle After Another," "The Secret Agent," "Sentimental Value," "Sinners" and "Train

Dreams."

Guillermo del Toro's lush Mary Shelley adaptation "Frankenstein," Josh Safdie's period ping-pong odyssey "Marty Supreme" and Joachim Trier's family drama "Sentimental Value" all scored nine nominations. Chloé Zhao's speculative Shakespeare drama "Hamnet" collected eight nods. With the notable exception of del Toro, those filmmakers filled up a best director category of Anderson, Coogler, Safdie, Trier and Zhao, who in 2021 became the first woman of color to ever win the award.

The nine nods for "Marty Supreme" included a third best actor nod for 30-year-old Timothée Chalamet, the favorite in the category he narrowly missed winning last year for "A Complete Unknown."

With Jordan and Chalamet, the nominees are Ethan Hawke for "Blue Moon," Wagner Moura for "The Secret Agent" and DiCaprio for "One Battle After Another."

Reached by phone Thursday, DiCaprio said the nominations for "One Battle After Another" and "Sinners" signaled a sea change in an industry where studios have largely shied away from big-budget original stories.

"To me what matters is great ideas and original filmmaking," said DiCaprio. "I think there's this tide of change

that is going to happen no matter how we feel about it."

Nominated for best actress was the category favorite, Jessie Buckley ("Hamnet"), along with Rose Byrne ("If I Had Legs I'd Kick You"), Kate Hudson ("Song Sung Blue"), Renate Reinsve ("Sentimental Value") and two-time winner Emma Stone, who landed her sixth nomination, for "Bugonia."

'KPop' leads a field light on big hits

The year's most-watched movie, with more than half a billion views on Netflix, "KPop Demon Hunters," scored nominations for both best song ("Golden") and best animated feature. Sony Pictures developed and produced the film, but, after selling it to Netflix, watched it become a worldwide sensation. Blockbusters otherwise had a difficult morning. Universal Pictures' "Wicked: For Good" was shut out entirely. While "Avatar: Fire and Ash" notched nominations for costume design and visual effects, it became the first "Avatar" film not nominated for best picture. The biggest box-office hit nominated for Hollywood's top award instead was "F1," an Apple production that landed four nominations. The streamer partnered with Warner Bros. to distribute the racing drama. This year, the Oscars are introducing a new cate-

gory for casting. That new honor helped "Sinners" and "One Battle After Another" pad their already impressive stats. Along with those two films, the nominees are "Hamnet," "Marty Supreme" and "The Secret Agent."

An international shift continues

The academy, which has expanded its overseas membership in recent years, also continued its tilt toward international films. Every category included one international nominee. For the eighth year in the row, a non-English-language film was nominated for best picture. More non-English performances were nominated than ever before.

The top nominee of them all was Trier's Norwegian drama "Sentimental Value." It cleaned up in the supporting actor categories, with nods for Stellan Skarsgård, Inga lbsdatter Lilleaas and Elle Fanning. Also nominated for best supporting actress, in addition to Taylor: Amy Madigan for "Weapons" and Wunmi Mosaku for "Sinners." In supporting actor, the nominees included Jacob Elordi for "Frankenstein" and, in a surprise that likely dislodged Paul Mescal of "Hamnet," Delroy Lindo for "Sinners."

A competitive best international feature category mirrored the turbulent state of the world. That included the Iranian revenge drama and Palme d'Or winner "It Was Just an Accident," by the often-imprisoned filmmaker Jafar Panahi. He's spoken passionately against the ongoing crack-down of demonstrators in his home country. France nominated the film.

Also nominated: the Tunisian entry "The Voice of Hind Rajab," about volunteers at the Palestine Red Crescent Society; the timely Brazilian political thriller "The Secret Agent"; the apocalyptic Spanish road movie "Sirât" and "Sentimental Value." Four of those nominees came from one independent distributor: Neon. □

Lindsey Vonn, Chloe Kim, Mikaela Shiffrin headline U.S. ski and snowboard squad named to the Olympics

By PAT GRAHAM and
EDDIE PELLIS
AP Sports Writers

Lindsey Vonn's stirring return to ski racing in her 40s will hit its crescendo at the Milan Cortina Olympics, while the comeback quest of another U.S. gold medalist, snowboarder Jamie Anderson, came up short.

Anderson, a two-time champion in slopestyle who returned to the sport after having two kids, failed to reach a podium this season and will not join the U.S. Ski & Snowboard team in the mountains of Italy.

Mikaela Shiffrin made her fourth Olympic team, while snowboarder Chloe Kim is trying to make it three gold medals at three Olympics though her health is in question after hurting her shoulder in training earlier this month. They're the headliners as U.S. Ski and Snowboard named its 97-person roster on Thursday. It contained few surprises, since virtually all the spots were determined based on results over the last two years. The 41-year-old Vonn, Kim and Shiffrin, who have five Olympic gold medals between them, lead a roster that is short in experience. There are 48 first-time Olympians.

In all, there are 50 women and 47 men, ranging in ages from 15 (halfpipe freestyle



United States' Lindsey Vonn celebrates on the podium after taking second place in an alpine ski, women's World Cup Super G, in Tarvisio, Italy, Sunday, Jan. 18, 2026.

skier Abby Winterberger) to 44 (snowboardcross rider Nick Baumgartner, at his fifth Olympics, and defending champion in the mixed event). The team is slated to be officially announced on Monday.

The skiers and snowboarders brought home 15 of the United States' 25 medals at the Beijing Games four years ago. They'll make up almost half of the entire contingent the U.S. brings to Milan Cortina.

"I am confident about the impact they will make in

Italy," U.S. Ski & Snowboard president and CEO Sophie Goldschmidt said. "More than the results, our athletes are also bringing some of the most captivating story lines to Milano Cortina."

Vonn returned last season after a partial knee replacement and quickly began to show the form that made her a four-time overall World Cup champion. She's won two World Cup downhill races this season to bring her career total to 84 and will be a favorite in both speed events in Cortina. She

may even pair with Shiffrin as the team combined event makes its Olympic debut. Shiffrin is trying to bounce back after going 0 for 6 in her bid to win a medal four years ago. She captured gold in the slalom at the 2014 Sochi Games and gold in giant slalom four years later in South Korea. She's locked in this season in the slalom, winning six races. This will be the fourth and final Olympics for cross-country skier Jessie Diggins, a three-time Olympic medalist, including gold in the team sprint in 2018, who plans to retire at the end of

the season.

"Throughout this season, we've seen quite remarkable results from our athletes across all 10 of our sports," said Anouk Patty, the chief of sport for U.S. Ski & Snowboard. "I know this is one of the strongest teams we have sent to the Games."

Alpine skiing

It's been a bumpy road back to the Olympics for Breezy Johnson, who tore her right knee a month before the 2022 Beijing Games. The 30-year-old Johnson competed at 2018 Pyeongchang Games.

Vonn and Paula Moltzan both were once taught at Buck Hill in Minnesota under the tutelage of late coach Erich Sailer.

Ryan Cochran-Siegle was a silver medalist in the super-G at the Beijing Games.

Snowboarding

Eight years ago, Red Gerard lit up the Olympics by winning gold in slopestyle at 17. He's back for his third Olympics and now, there's another 17-year-old on the squad. It's Ollie Martin, who is the first to land a pair of 2160-degree spins in opposite directions and could be a threat in both slopestyle and big air.

The post-Shaun White era on the halfpipe starts with a roster full of underdogs. □

An expected major winter storm already has some leagues reshuffling games this week

By The Associated Press

One year after a winter storm forced postponements across U.S. sports, another major weather system is prompting a reshuffling of games this week and threatened to wreak havoc on the weekend schedule.

A storm that meteorologists say could rival the damage of a major hurricane is expected to bring snow, ice and frigid temperatures from New Mexico to New England starting Friday.

Major League Baseball's Texas Rangers canceled their annual Fan Fest event scheduled for Saturday due to the weather forecast for frozen precipitation in North Texas and "in the interest of safety for players, fans, and employees."

The number of states where college games were being adjusted showed the large path of the approaching storm.

The No. 1 UConn women's basketball team's game at Seton Hall was moved up from Sunday to Saturday.

The Sun Belt Conference preemptively shook up its women's basketball schedule, moving around the start times on several games from Thursday through Saturday. The American Athletic Conference also adjusted its weekend men's and women's basketball schedules, moving some games up to Friday.

North Carolina Central postponed two men's and two women's basketball games scheduled to be played from Thursday through Monday in Durham, North Carolina. □



Traffic passes piled-up snow in Lowville, N.Y., Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026.

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Djokovic one away from 400 Grand Slam match wins; Wawrinka makes history

By **JOHN PYE**
AP Sports Writer
MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Novak Djokovic and Stan Wawrinka made it a day for the ages at the Australian Open.

Djokovic improved to 399 wins in Grand Slam matches with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Francesco Maestrelli on Thursday, making the 38-year-old, 24-time major winner just one shy of becoming the first player ever to 400. He's aiming to win an unprecedented 25th Grand Slam title. And if he does, he'll beat Ken Rosewall's record (aged 37 in 1972) as the oldest man in the Open era to win a major singles championship.

The Rosewall name was prominent on Day 5 at Melbourne Park, where he was among the invited VIPs.

Wawrinka, at 40 years, 310 days, became the first man over 40 to reach the



Novak Djokovic of Serbia reacts during his second round match against Francesco Maestrelli of Italy at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026.

Associated Press

third round of a major since Rosewall in 1978. It took a 4 1/2-hour 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (3) comeback victory over 21-year-old qualifier Arthur Gea. That's the longest match of the 2026 tournament so far.

Wawrinka, who is retiring at the end of the year, will next face No. 9 Taylor Fritz.

Before then, he told the crowd at John Cain Arena: "I think I'll pick up a beer. I deserve one!"

His was one of three high-profile matches that finished around the same time, with Jannik Sinner continuing his bid for an Australian Open three-peat after beating James Duckworth 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 on Rod Laver Arena.

The defining feature of Naomi Osaka's first two rounds quickly moved from fashion to friction when her 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 win over Sorana Cirstea ended in tension.

"I think this was her last Australian Open so, OK, sorry she was mad about it," Osaka said.

Day and night

With Sinner facing an Australian wild card, he got the prime time night slot and bumped 10-time Australian Open winner Djokovic into the afternoon session.

That didn't bother Djokovic as much as the dropped service game in the third set his first of the tournament. It stung Djokovic, who broke the Italian qualifier at love in the next game and finished on an eight-point roll.

He said he took extra time out in the offseason and fine-tuned some skills as he chases his biggest goals.

"When I have more time,

then I obviously try to look at my game and different elements that I can really improve. Otherwise, what's the point?" he said. "That's the kind of mentality I try to nurture. It's been allowing to me play at the highest level at this age."

Iga Świątek beat Marie Bouzkova 6-2, 6-3 and later said she's been trying to take lessons from Djokovic's attitude to sustained success and longevity.

"It's good to look at people like that and find inspiration," the six-time major winner said. "For sure I've got to learn to appreciate every single match," she said.

Keys to success

Defending champion Madison Keys was down a double break in the second set before rallying to beat Ashlyn Krueger 6-1, 7-5 and advancing to a third-round match against former No. 1 Karolina Plíšková. □